U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management
White River Field Office
73544 Hwy 64
Meeker, CO 81641

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

NUMBER: CO-110-2004-131-EA

CASEFILE/PROJECT NUMBER (optional): Well #10-1-101#13

PROJECT NAME: Gas Well

LEGAL DESCRIPTION: T1S R101W Sec 10 SWSW

APPLICANT: CDX Gas, LLC

DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSED ACTION AND ALTERNATIVES:

Background/Introduction:

Proposed Action: CDX has proposed to drill a well next to an existing road. The drill pad will be new disturbance of about 1 acre. This well is adjacent to a Citizens Proposed Wilderness Area.

No Action Alternative: No well would be drilled.

ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED BUT NOT CARRIED FORWARD:

NEED FOR THE ACTION:

PLAN CONFORMANCE REVIEW: The Proposed Action is subject to and has been reviewed for conformance with the following plan (43 CFR 1610.5, BLM 1617.3):

Name of Plan: White River Record of Decision and Approved Resource Management Plan (ROD/RMP).

Date Approved: July 1, 1997

Decision Number/Page: Page 2-5

Decision Language: "Make federal oil and gas resources available for leasing and development in a manner that provides reasonable protection for other resource values."

AFFECTED ENVIRONMENT / ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES / MITIGATION MEASURES:

STANDARDS FOR PUBLIC LAND HEALTH: In January 1997, Colorado Bureau of Land Management (BLM) approved the Standards for Public Land Health. These standards cover upland soils, riparian systems, plant and animal communities, threatened and endangered species, and water quality. Standards describe conditions needed to sustain public land health and relate to all uses of the public lands. Because a standard exists for these five categories, a finding must be made for each of them in an environmental analysis. These findings are located in specific elements listed below:

CRITICAL ELEMENTS

AIR QUALITY

Affected Environment: During periods of low precipitation, air quality in the area of the proposed action is often diminished by dust caused by human disturbance.

Environmental Consequences of the Proposed Action: The proposed action would result in short term, local impacts to air quality during and after construction, due to dust being blown into the air. After adequate vegetation is reestablished, blowing dust should return to pre-construction levels.

Environmental Consequences of the No Action Alternative: No increase in dust will occur.

Mitigation: When needed, the applicant will spread water on road surfaces to control fugitive dust to minimize these short-term impacts.

CULTURAL RESOURCES

Affected Environment: The proposed well pad location has been inventoried at the Class III (100% pedestrian) level (Bond 2004, Compliance Dated 5/28/2004) with no new cultural resources identified in the ten acre well pad inventory area.

Environmental Consequences of the Proposed Action: The proposed well pad location will not impact any known cultural resources.

Environmental Consequences of the No Action Alternative: There would be no new impacts to cultural resources under the No Action Alternative.

Mitigation: 1. Existing access may not be upgraded, nor have maintenance performed outside of existing disturbance until it is inventoried.

2. The operator is responsible for informing all persons who are associated with the project

operations that they will be subject to prosecution for knowingly disturbing historic or archaeological sites, or for collecting artifacts. If historic or archaeological materials are uncovered during any project or construction activities, the operator is to immediately stop activities in the immediate area of the find that might further disturb such materials, and immediately contact the authorized officer (AO). Within five working days the AO will inform the operator as to:

- whether the materials appear eligible for the National Register of Historic Places
- the mitigation measures the operator will likely have to undertake before the site can be used (assuming in situ preservation is not necessary)
- a timeframe for the AO to complete an expedited review under 36 CFR 800-11 to confirm, through the State Historic Preservation Officer, that the findings of the AO are correct and that mitigation is appropriate.

If the operator wishes, at any time, to relocate activities to avoid the expense of mitigation and/or the delays associated with this process, the AO will assume responsibility for whatever recordation and stabilization of the exposed materials may be required. Otherwise, the operator will be responsible for mitigation cost. The AO will provide technical and procedural guidelines for the conduct of mitigation. Upon verification from the AO that the required mitigation has been completed, the operator will then be allowed to resume construction.

3. Pursuant to 43 CFR 10.4(g) the holder of this authorization must notify the AO, by telephone, with written confirmation, immediately upon the discovery of human remains, funerary items, sacred objects, or objects of cultural patrimony. Further, pursuant to 43 CFR 10.4(c) and (d), you must stop activities in the vicinity of the discovery and protect it for 30 days or until notified to proceed by the authorized officer.

INVASIVE, NON-NATIVE SPECIES

Affected Environment: The project site is a low elevation Utah juniper site with sparse understory of sagebrush and grass. Soils of this site are shallow and rocky but generally reclaim well. No noxious weed species have been documented in this area with exception of cheatgrass. This site is adapted to invasion by several of the knapweed species which are commonly transported on construction equipment and support vehicles.

Environmental Consequences of the Proposed Action: Using the proposed seed mix and reclamation requirements this site is expected to be stable within three years. The seed mix contains non-native species which have not been shown to invade the adjacent plant communities or to interbreed with native species. With proper weed control of noxious weeds that invade the site no problems are expected. The proposed seed mix would be competitive with cheatgrass preventing its occupation of the site.

Environmental Consequences of the No Action Alternative: There would be no impacts.

Mitigation: From the White River ROD/RMP Conditions of Approval numbers 180 - 189. All disturbed sites shall be promptly reclaimed to the satisfaction of the Area Manger.

Reclamation should be implemented concurrent with construction and site operations to the fullest extent possible. Final reclamation actions shall be initiated within six months of the termination of operations unless otherwise approved in writing by the Authorized Officer.

The goal for rehabilitation of any disturbed area shall be the permanent restoration of original site conditions and productive capability.

Disturbed areas shall be restored as nearly as possible to its original contour.

Fill material shall be pushed into cut areas and up over backslopes. Leave no depressions that will trap water or form ponds.

Distribute topsoil evenly over the location and prepare a seedbed by disking or ripping. Drill seed on contour at a depth no greater than 1/2 inch. In areas that cannot be drilled, broadcast at double the seeding rate and harrow seed into the soil.

Use seed that is certified and free of noxious weeds. Seed certification tags must be submitted to the Area Manager.

Additional seed applications may be required to accommodate specific site conditions or if initial seed germination has failed.

Seed species used in reseeding disturbed areas will be based on the seed mixes identified in table B1 and B2. These mixes are based on range sites as determined by soils. Naturalized plant species will be allowed for reseeding on "at risk" and "unhealthy" rangelands and grazed woodlands. Seed Mix 2 was selected because of the austere growing conditions and expectation of grazing by livestock.

Table B-1. Standard Seed Mixes

Seed Mix #	Species (Variety)	Lbs PLS/ Acre	Range sites
2	Western wheatgrass (Arriba) Pubescent wheatgrass (Luna) Russian wildrye (Bozoisky) Crested wheatgrass (Fairway/Ephraim) Fourwing saltbush (Wytana/Rincon) Alternates: Winterfat	3 2 2 2 2	Alkaline Slopes, Clayey Foothills, Clayey Slopes, Claypan, Mountain Shale

Leave the disturbed area in a condition that provides drainage with no additional maintenance.

MIGRATORY BIRDS

Affected Environment: A number of migratory birds fulfill nesting functions throughout the project area's woodlands during the months of May, June, and July. Communities associated with these mid-elevation, juniper-dominated woodland communities (e.g., chipping sparrow, Bewick's wren) are typically low density, but widely represented in the Resource Area and region. Those bird populations associated with this area's stunted woodlands identified as having higher conservation interest (i.e., Rocky Mountain Bird Observatory, Partners in Flight program) are limited to gray flycatcher, and more sparingly, juniper titmouse and black-throated gray warbler. These birds are well distributed throughout this Resource Area's woodlands, but are typically more abundant in more mature woodlands with increasing complements of pinyon pine.

Environmental Consequences of the Proposed Action: The proposed action is likely to be developed outside the migratory birds breeding season (October-December). But, regardless of timeframes, because the proposed pad is small and immediately adjacent to an existing road, and due to the limited densities of breeding birds in this type, the action would have little potential to involve anything but a very few (i.e., perhaps up to 3) nesting pairs of migratory birds, and would likely not involve birds having higher conservation interest. The influence of this action on the reproductive performance or population viability of locally nesting migratory birds, at any landscape scale, would be negligible.

Environmental Consequences of the No Action Alternative: There would be no action authorized that would disrupt nesting activities of migratory birds.

Mitigation: None.

WASTES, HAZARDOUS OR SOLID

Affected Environment: There are no known hazardous or other solid wastes on the subject lands. No hazardous materials are known to have been used, stored or disposed of at sites included in the proposed action.

Environmental Consequences of the Proposed Action: No listed or extremely hazardous materials in excess of threshold quantities are proposed for use in this project. While commercial preparations of fuels and lubricants proposed for use may contain some hazardous constituents, they would be stored, used and transported in a manner consistent with applicable laws, and the generation of hazardous wastes would not be anticipated. Solid wastes would be properly disposed of.

Environmental Consequences of the No Action Alternative: No hazardous or other solid wastes would be generated under the no action alternative.

Mitigation: The operator shall be required to collect and properly dispose of any solid wastes generated by this project.

WATER QUALITY, SURFACE AND GROUND (includes a finding on Standard 5)

Affected Environment: The proposed action is in segment 22 identified in the State of Colorado Stream Classification and Water Quality Standards as all tributaries to the White River, including all wetlands, lakes and reservoirs, from a point immediately above the confluence with Douglas Creek to the Colorado/Utah border, except for specific listings in Segment 23.

A review of the Colorado's 1989 Nonpoint Source Assessment Report (plus updates), the 305(b) report, the 303(d) list and the Unified Watershed Assessment was done to see if any water quality concerns have been identified. This well is in a Category 1, Priority 2, watershed (The Lower White) identified in the Unified Watershed Assessment report. The state has reasons to believe this watershed has water quality problems (sediment and salinity loads) that may impair the watershed. The State has classified this stream segment as Aquatic Life Warm 1, Recreation 1a, Water Supply and Agriculture. The state has further defined water quality parameters with table values. These standards reflect the ambient water quality and define maximum allowable concentrations for the various water quality parameters. The anti-degradation rule applies to this segment meaning no further water quality degradation is allowable that would interfere with or become harmful to the designated uses.

Mitigation: Efforts need to be made to keep sediment from leaving the site. Apply Conditions of Approval listed in Appendix B of the White River ROD/RMP numbers 4, 6, and 8 to help minimize surface disturbing impacts:

When preparing the site, all suitable topsoil should be stripped from the surface of the location and stockpiled for reclamation once the location is abandoned. If well becomes a producing well, spread the topsoil pile and seed to reduce wind and water erosion.

All sediment control structures or disposal pits will be designed to contain a 100-year, 6-hour storm event. Storage volumes within these structures will have a design life of 25 years.

All activity shall cease when soils or road surfaces become saturated to a depth of three inches unless otherwise approved by the Authorized Officer.

Finding on the Public Land Health Standard for water quality: The proposed action will not have an affect on Duck Creek, which is currently well within the standards set by the State, and thus meets the Public Land Health Standard.

CRITICAL ELEMENTS NOT PRESENT OR NOT AFFECTED:

No ACECs, flood plains, prime and unique farmlands, wetlands/riparian zones, Wilderness, Wild and Scenic Rivers, or threatened, endangered or sensitive animals or plants exist within the area affected by the proposed action. For riparian/wetland communities and threatened, endangered and sensitive species, the Public Land Health Standards are not applicable since neither the proposed nor the no-action alternative would have any influence on these communities or populations of, or habitats potentially occupied by, special status animals or plants. There are

also no Native American religious or environmental justice concerns associated with the proposed action.

NON-CRITICAL ELEMENTS

The following elements **must** be addressed due to the involvement of Standards for Public Land Health:

SOILS (includes a finding on Standard 1)

Affected Environment: The proposed action is on soil mapping unit #70-Redcreek-Rentsac complex, on 5 to 30 percent slopes. The Redcreek soil is shallow and well drained. It formed in residual and eolian material derived dominantly from sandstone. Typically, the surface layer is brown sandy loam about 4 inches thick. The next layer is brown, calcareous sandy loam about 7 inches thick. The underlying material is very pale brown, calcareous channery loam 5 inches thick. Hard sandstone is at a depth of 16 inches. Depth to hard sandstone or hard shale ranges from 10 to 20 inches. Permeability of the Redcreek soil is moderately rapid. Available water capacity is very low. Effective rooting depth is 10 to 20 inches. Runoff is medium, and the hazard of water erosion is moderate to high.

The Rentsac soil is shallow and well drained. It formed in residuum derived dominantly from sandstone. Typically, the upper part of the surface layer is grayish brown channery loam about 5 inches thick. The next layer is brown very channery loam about 4 inches thick. The underlying material is very pale brown extremely flaggy loam 7 inches thick. Hard sandstone is at a depth of 16 inches. Depth to hard sandstone or hard shale ranges from 10 to 20 inches. Permeability of the Rentsac soil is moderately rapid. Available water capacity is very low. Effective rooting depth is 10 to 20 inches. Runoff is medium, and the hazard of water erosion is moderate to high.

This map unit is a Pinyon-Juniper woodland site.

Environmental Consequences of the Proposed Action:

Environmental Consequences of the No Action Alternative: Impacts are not anticipated from the no-action alternative.

Mitigation: None

Finding on the Public Land Health Standard for upland soils: This site meets the Land health standards and would continue to do so with successful reclamation.

VEGETATION (includes a finding on Standard 3)

Affected Environment: The project site is a low elevation Utah juniper woodland with a sparse understory of sagebrush, grasses and forbs. The density of juniper is less than 10%, providing little soil protection.

Environmental Consequences of the Proposed Action: The junipers would be removed. Reclamation is expected to introduce a plant community with greater production and soil stability than the current community. Junipers are expected to colonize the site over a thirty year period and achieve an old growth character in 200 to 300 years.

Environmental Consequences of the No Action Alternative:

Mitigation: None

Finding on the Public Land Health Standard for plant and animal communities (partial, see also Wildlife, Aquatic and Wildlife, Terrestrial)*:* This site would following reclamation meet the indicators for healthy plant communities.

WILDLIFE, AQUATIC (includes a finding on Standard 3)

Affected Environment: There are no aquatic habitats associated with, or potentially influenced by the proposed action. The nearest aquatic system, Douglas Creek, is separated from the proposed action by over 3 miles of ephemeral channel. Portions of mainstem Douglas Creek support intermittent populations of beaver and speckled dace, a native non-game fish.

Environmental Consequences of the Proposed Action: The proposed action would have no conceivable influence on downstream aquatic habitats.

Environmental Consequences of the No Action Alternative: There would be no action authorized that could potentially influence aquatic habitats.

Mitigation: None

Finding on the Public Land Health Standard for plant and animal communities (partial, see also Vegetation and Wildlife, Terrestrial): Downstream portions of Douglas Creek are in proper functioning condition and are currently meeting standards associated with Public Land Standard 3. The proposed and no-action alternatives would have no reasonable likelihood of influencing the land health status of this system and neither would interfere with the continued meeting of the standard.

WILDLIFE, TERRESTRIAL (includes a finding on Standard 3)

Affected Environment: The proposed pad is encompassed by extensive general big game winter range. This range is generally used by deer and elk during the early/mid winter and mid-spring periods. The pad is situated lies in a ridgeline position, adjacent and parallel to an

unimproved road. The location does not involve any landform features that have notable significance for big game.

The pad location and surrounding area are comprised predominantly of an early mature, but stunted (15-20 feet in height) juniper woodland with scattered pinyon and a sparse herbaceous understory. The pad would occupy (about 0.75 acre) the westernmost extension of a narrow black sagebrush park.

The pad and a 500 foot buffer were inspected by a BLM biologist for evidence of past or current raptor nesting activity. No raptor nesting use was found. Although a subtending bench and draw northeast of the pad offers more desirable nest habitat character for woodland raptors (i.e., relative to the ridgeline), the trees making up this site have structural conformation that is relatively poor nest substrate.

The abundance and composition of nongame bird communities associated with these mid-elevation juniper dominated woodlands are considered representative and complete with no obvious deficiencies in composition. Small mammal populations and distribution is poorly documented, however, the 6 or 7 species potentially occurring on these ranges are widely distributed throughout the State and/or region. These upland mammals display broad ecological tolerance and are documented from habitats ranging from foothill to alpine sites. No narrowly distributed or highly specialized non-game species or subspecific populations are known to occur in this area.

Environmental Consequences of the Proposed Action: Development of this well represents an incremental, but discountable reduction in the early winter forage base for deer. Depending on development timeframes, activity associated with pad construction, drilling, and completion would temporarily displace local wintering deer, but there is very little gas development occurring in this area, and cumulative effects (e.g., physiological/energetic burdens) would be minor. There would be no additional access required for this pad and the project, therefore, would not contribute to increases in road density. In the longer term, subsequent reclamation would allow for the redevelopment of a sagebrush/bunchgrass park—a feature consistent with current landscape character.

Based on woodland characteristics and topographic position, the project would have no reasonable likelihood of disrupting woodland raptor nesting efforts, regardless of development timeframes. The modification of about 0.75 acre each of juniper woodland and black sagebrush shrubland in close proximity to an existing road would have no measurable influence on the distribution, abundance, or viability of any local non-game animal population.

Environmental Consequences of the No Action Alternative: There would be no activity authorized that would affect local wildlife habitat or populations.

Mitigation: It is recommended that production facilities be placed in close proximity to the access road, maximizing opportunity to implement interim reclamation and minimizing the normal working surface of the pad.

Finding on the Public Land Health Standard for plant and animal communities (partial, see also Vegetation and Wildlife, Aquatic): The mid-elevation woodlands affected by this action are currently meeting the Public Land Health Standard for animal communities. The proposed action would change the longer term status of this 1.5 acre site to an industrial use, but the well's development and operation would have no notable influence on the utility or condition of surrounding wildlife habitat and it would not interfere with continued meeting of the health standard on the surrounding landscape.

OTHER NON-CRITICAL ELEMENTS: For the following elements, only those brought forward for analysis will be addressed further.

Non-Critical Element	NA or Not Present	Applicable or Present, No Impact	Applicable & Present and Brought Forward for Analysis
Access and Transportation			X
Cadastral Survey	X		
Fire Management		X	
Forest Management		X	
Geology and Minerals			X
Hydrology/Water Rights	X		
Law Enforcement		X	
Paleontology			X
Rangeland Management			X
Realty Authorizations			X
Recreation			X
Socio-Economics		X	
Visual Resources			X
Wild Horses			X

ACCESS AND TRANSPORTATION

Affected Environment: Unnamed BLM road on ridge north of Left Fork of East Four Mile Draw will be affected.

Environmental Consequences of the Proposed Action: With the construction and continued maintenance on the proposed well, it could be suggested that an increase in traffic will occur primarily during the pad construction and drilling phases of the proposed well.

Environmental Consequences of the No Action Alternative: None.

Mitigation: None.

GEOLOGY AND MINERALS

Affected Environment: The surface geologic formation of the well locations is Mesaverde and CDX's targeted zone is in the Mancos. During drilling potential water, coal, oil and gas zones will be encountered from surface to the targeted zone. This well is located on existing Federal Oil and Gas leases COC-63282**.**

Environmental Consequences of the Proposed Action: Cementing procedure of the proposed actions isolates the formations and will prevent the migration of gas, water, and oil between formations. The coal zones located the Mesaverde will also be isolated during this procedure. Development of these wells will deplete the hydrocarbon resources in the targeted formation.

Environmental Consequences of the No Action Alternative: None

Mitigation: None

PALEONTOLOGY

Affected Environment: The proposed well pad location is located in an area mapped as the Mesa Verde Formation (Tweto 1979) which the BLM has classified as a Condition I fossil bearing formation, meaning it is known to produce scientifically important fossil resources.

Environmental Consequences of the Proposed Action: If it should become necessary to excavate into the underlying bedrock formation level the well pad or excavate the reserve/blooie pit there is a high potential to impact scientifically important fossil resources.

Environmental Consequences of the No Action Alternative: there would be no new impacts to fossil resources under the No Action Alternative.

Mitigation: 1. All exposed rock outcrops on the well pad location must be examined by an approved paleontologist with a report detailing the results of the examination and containing any mitigation recommendations submitted to the BLM prior the initiation of construction. If at any time it becomes necessary to excavate into the underlying bedrock formation to level the well pad or excavate the reserve/blooie pit then a paleontological monitor shall be present during all such excavations.

RANGELAND MANAGEMENT

Affected Environment: The project area is within the Cathedral Bluffs Grazing allotment which is permitted under an Allotment management Plan for year round livestock use. This allotment is grazed by approximately 400 cattle. This project is located in the Philadelphia pasture on which grazing use is during the winter and spring.

Environmental Consequences of the Proposed Action: This project is not expected to conflict with the livestock grazing operation. Following reclamation there is expected to be an increase in forage until the juniper woodland dominates the site.

Environmental Consequences of the No Action Alternative: There would be no impacts.

Mitigation: None

REALTY AUTHORIZATIONS

Affected Environment: This action will involve the construction of a new pipeline and authorizing the use of an existing access road. The pipeline will be an amendment to existing right-of-way COC65353 and a new right-of-way will be issued for the access road, COC67911.

Environmental Consequences of the Proposed Action: There will be no new construction associated with the proposed action. The pipeline will be a surface line mainly following the access road. The access road will require some upgrading in a few places to smooth out deep ruts, but no new construction off-lease.

Environmental Consequences of the No Action Alternative: None

Mitigation: Standard stipulations from the BLM manual for rights-of-way will be applied.

RECREATION

Affected Environment: The proposed action occurs within the White River Extensive Recreation Management Area (ERMA). BLM custodially manages the ERMA to provide for unstructured recreation activities such as hunting, dispersed camping, hiking, horseback riding, wildlife viewing and off-highway vehicle use.

The project area most resembles a Recreation Opportunity Spectrum (ROS) class of Semi-Primitive Motorized (SPM). SPM recreation setting is typically characterized by a natural appearing environment with few administrative controls, low interaction between users but evidence of other users may be present. SPM recreation experience is characterized by a high probability of isolation from the sights and sounds of humans that offers an environment that offers challenge and risk.

Environmental Consequences of the Proposed Action: The public will most likely not recreate in the vicinity of these facilities while construction is in progress and will be dispersed elsewhere. If action coincides with hunting seasons (September through November) it will most likely disrupt the experience sought by those recreationists.

With the introduction of additional well pads and roads an increase of traffic could be expected increasing the likelihood of human interactions, the sights and sounds associated with the human environment and a less naturally appearing environment. It could be suggested that the project area will retain its SPM character fat the present time with the current level of development.

Environmental Consequences of the No Action Alternative: No loss of dispersed recreation potential and no impact to hunting recreationists.

Mitigation: None.

VISUAL RESOURCES

Affected Environment: These wells are in an area managed as Visual Resource Management Area (VRM) Class 3. The objective of this class is to partially retain the existing character of the landscape. The level of change to characteristic landscape should be moderate. Management activities may attract attention but should not dominate the view of the casual observer. Changes should repeat the basic elements found in the predominant natural features of the characteristic landscape.

Environmental Consequences of the Proposed Action: The visual affects from this project will result in a moderate change to the characteristic landscape. VRM Class 3 objectives will be met.

Environmental Consequences of the No Action Alternative: None

Mitigation: None

WILD HORSES

Affected Environment: These wells are located in the northwestern portion of the Piceance-East Douglas wild horse herd management area (HMA). The objective of wild horse management in the Piceance-East Douglas HMA is to "provide a healthy, viable breeding population [of horses] with a diverse age structure." The area identified for drilling coincides with wild horse winter range. Horses are widely distributed through the northwest portion of the HMA between November and early spring of each year.

Environmental Consequences of the Proposed Action: Development of this well alone is not expected to cause any changes in wild horse distribution, animal behavior, or herd health. Recognition is being made that increased drilling activity in this portion, or any portion of the HMA could result in long-term negative effects on herd distribution, behavior and health.

Environmental Consequences of the No Action Alternative: None

Mitigation: None

CUMULATIVE IMPACTS SUMMARY: No cumulative impacts were identified. The White River PRMP/FEIS analyzed cumulative impacts of resource-area-wide oil and gas development.

REFERENCES CITED:

Bond, Mark C.

2004 Cultural Resource Inventory of the CDX Gas Proposed Federal 10-1-101#13 Well Location, Rio Blanco County, Colorado. Montgomery Archaeological Consultants, Moab, Utah.

Tweto, Ogden
1979 Geologic Map of Colorado. Unites States Geologic Survey, Department of the Interior, Reston, Virginai.

PERSONS / AGENCIES CONSULTED:

INTERDISCIPLINARY REVIEW:

Name	Title	Area of Responsibility
Caroline Hollowed	P&EC	Air Quality
Tamara Meagley	NRS	Areas of Critical Environmental Concern
Tamara Meagley	NRS	Threatened and Endangered Plant Species
Michael Selle	Archaeologist	Cultural Resources Paleontological Resources
Robert Fowler	Forester	Invasive, Non-Native Species
Ed Hollowed	Wildlife Biologist	Migratory Birds
Ed Hollowed	Wildlife Biologist	Threatened, Endangered and Sensitive Animal Species, Wildlife
Marty O'Mara	Hazmat Collateral	Wastes, Hazardous or Solid
Caroline Hollowed	P&EC	Water Quality, Surface and Ground Hydrology and Water Rights
Ed Hollowed	Wildlife Biologist	Wetlands and Riparian Zones
Chris Ham	ORP	Wilderness
Caroline Hollowed	P&EC	Soils
Robert Fowler	Forester	Vegetation
Ed Hollowed	Wildlife Biologist	Wildlife Terrestrial and Aquatic
Chris Ham	ORP	Access and Transportation
Ken Holsinger	NRS	Fire Management
Robert Fowler	Forester	Forest Management
Paul Daggett	Mining Engineer	Geology and Minerals
Robert Fowler	Forester	Rangeland Management
Penny Brown	Realty Specialist	Realty Authorizations
Chris Ham	ORP	Recreation
Max McCoy	NRS	Visual Resources
Valerie Dobrich	NRS	Wild Horses

Finding of No Significant Impact/Decision Record (FONSI/DR)

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FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT (FONSI)/RATIONALE: The environmental assessment and analyzing the environmental effects of the proposed action have been reviewed. The approved mitigation measures (listed below) result in a Finding of No Significant Impact on the human environment. Therefore, an environmental impact statement is not necessary to further analyze the environmental effects of the proposed action.

DECISION/RATIONALE: It is my decision to approve the action as proposed with the following mitigation.

MITIGATION MEASURES: 1. Existing access may not be upgraded, nor have maintenance performed outside of existing disturbance until it is inventoried.

2. The operator is responsible for informing all persons who are associated with the project operations that they will be subject to prosecution for knowingly disturbing historic or archaeological sites, or for collecting artifacts. If historic or archaeological materials are uncovered during any project or construction activities, the operator is to immediately stop activities in the immediate area of the find that might further disturb such materials, and immediately contact the authorized officer (AO). Within five working days the AO will inform the operator as to:

- whether the materials appear eligible for the National Register of Historic Places
- the mitigation measures the operator will likely have to undertake before the site can be used (assuming in situ preservation is not necessary)
- a timeframe for the AO to complete an expedited review under 36 CFR 800-11 to confirm, through the State Historic Preservation Officer, that the findings of the AO are correct and that mitigation is appropriate.

If the operator wishes, at any time, to relocate activities to avoid the expense of mitigation and/or the delays associated with this process, the AO will assume responsibility for whatever recordation and stabilization of the exposed materials may be required. Otherwise, the operator will be responsible for mitigation cost. The AO will provide technical and procedural guidelines for the conduct of mitigation. Upon verification from the AO that the required mitigation has been completed, the operator will then be allowed to resume construction.

3. Pursuant to 43 CFR 10.4(g) the holder of this authorization must notify the AO, by telephone, with written confirmation, immediately upon the discovery of human remains, funerary items, sacred objects, or objects of cultural patrimony. Further, pursuant to 43 CFR 10.4(c) and (d), you must stop activities in the vicinity of the discovery and protect it for 30 days or until notified to

proceed by the authorized officer.

4. It is recommended that production facilities be placed in close proximity to the access road, maximizing opportunity to implement interim reclamation and minimizing the normal working surface of the pad.

5. All disturbed sites shall be promptly reclaimed to the satisfaction of the Area Manger.

6. Reclamation should be implemented concurrent with construction and site operations to the fullest extent possible. Final reclamation actions shall be initiated within six months of the termination of operations unless otherwise approved in writing by the Authorized Officer.

7. The goal for rehabilitation of any disturbed area shall be the permanent restoration of original site conditions and productive capability.

8. Disturbed areas shall be restored as nearly as possible to its original contour.

9. Fill material shall be pushed into cut areas and up over backslopes. Leave no depressions that will trap water or form ponds.

10. Distribute topsoil evenly over the location and prepare a seedbed by disking or ripping. Drill seed on contour at a depth no greater than 1/2 inch. In areas that cannot be drilled, broadcast at double the seeding rate and harrow seed into the soil.

11. Use seed that is certified and free of noxious weeds. Seed certification tags must be submitted to the Field Manager.

12. Additional seed applications may be required to accommodate specific site conditions or if initial seed germination has failed.

13. Seed species used in reseeding disturbed areas will be based on the seed mixes identified in table B1 and B2. These mixes are based on range sites as determined by soils. Naturalized plant species will be allowed for reseeding on "at risk" and "unhealthy" rangelands and grazed woodlands. Seed Mix 2 was selected because of the austere growing conditions.

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14. Leave the disturbed area in a condition that provides drainage with no additional maintenance.

15. When needed, the applicant will spread water on road surfaces to control fugitive dust to minimize these short-term impacts.

16. The operator shall be required to collect and properly dispose of any solid wastes generated by this project.

17. Efforts need to be made to keep sediment from leaving the site through the use of BMPs.

18. When preparing the site, all suitable topsoil should be stripped from the surface of the location and stockpiled for reclamation once the location is abandoned. If well becomes a producing well, spread the topsoil pile and seed to reduce wind and water erosion.

19. All sediment control structures or disposal pits will be designed to contain a 100-year, 6-hour storm event. Storage volumes within these structures will have a design life of 25 years.

20. All activity shall cease when soils or road surfaces become saturated to a depth of three inches unless otherwise approved by the Authorized Officer.

21. All exposed rock outcrops on the well pad location must be examined by an approved paleontologist with a report detailing the results of the examination and containing any mitigation recommendations submitted to the BLM prior the initiation of construction. If at any time it becomes necessary to excavate into the underlying bedrock formation to level the well pad or excavate the reserve/blooie pit then a paleontological monitor shall be present during all such excavations.

COMPLIANCE/MONITORING:

NAME OF PREPARER: Max McCoy

NAME OF ENVIRONMENTAL COORDINATOR: Carolie P. Hallowed 8/11/04

SIGNATURE OF AUTHORIZED OFFICIAL: William Pribil
Field Manager

DATE SIGNED: 8/11/04

ATTACHMENTS: Map of location of the proposed action.

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Location of Proposed Action
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